

Serial No. 09/544,423
Reply to Office Action of July 16, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-22 (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a joint between two members during a manufacturing process using [[an]] a viscous adhesive, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a joint between positioning a first member and to be in contact with a second member to form a joint, wherein the joint includes a coverage portion extending along the first member, and a fill portion adjacent the coverage portion and extending along the first member;

depositing adhesive along a predetermined area up to fifty percent of the coverage portion and a predetermined area up to ten percent of the fill portion to form [[a]] the joint interconnecting between the first member with the second member, so that seepage of the adhesive from the joint is a minimum while stress transfer of the joint is a maximum.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim [[24]] 23 wherein the joint is a full coach joint.

26. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim [[24]] 23 wherein the joint is a one-half coach joint.

27. (Cancelled)

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28. (Previously Presented) A method as set forth in claim 23 wherein the joint is a lap joint.

29. (Previously Presented) A method as set forth in claim 28 further including the step of depositing the adhesive between fifty to seventy-five percent of a total coverage portion, wherein the total coverage portion is a length of overlap between the first member and the second member.

30. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim 29 further including the step of depositing the adhesive on a center point for the total coverage length portion, and extending equidistant from the center point, to interconnect the first member and the second member.

31. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a joint between two members during a manufacturing process using [[an]] a viscous adhesive, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a joint between positioning a first member having an arcuate portion and to be in contact with a second member to form a joint, wherein the first member includes a coverage portion extending along the first member from a first point at a first end of the first member to a second point at which the first member curves to form a tangent portion, and a flange fill portion extending from the second point to a line segment that is collinear to the tangent portion;

depositing adhesive along a predetermined area up to fifty percent of the coverage portion and a predetermined area up to ten percent of the fill portion to form [[a]] the joint

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interconnecting between the first member with the second member, so that seepage of the adhesive from the joint is a minimum while stress transfer is a maximum.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim [[32]] 31 wherein the joint is a full coach joint.

34. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim [[32]] 31 wherein the joint is a one-half coach joint.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (New) A method of forming a lap joint between two members using a viscous adhesive, said method comprising the steps of:

positioning a first generally planar member to overlap a second generally planar member to form a joint, wherein the joint includes a coverage portion defined by a length of overlap between the first member and the second member; and

depositing the adhesive at a center point for the coverage length and applying the adhesive between fifty to seventy-five percent of the coverage portion, so that it is equidistant from the center point, to interconnect the first member and the second member, so that seepage of the adhesive from the joint is a minimum value while stress transfer of the joint is a maximum.